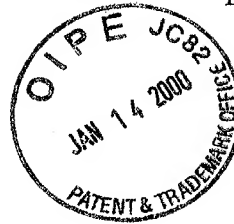


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 1655
Examiner: Jeanine Enewold

7/2/00
B. Webb
2/8/00

In Re Application of:
Inventor(s) : Ellen M. Heath *et al.*
Serial No. : 09/241,636
Filed : February 2, 1999
For : PROCESSES FOR ISOLATING, AMPLIFYING AND
CHARACTERIZING DNA
Attorney Docket No. : 5253



RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

This is a response to the outstanding office action, dated July 14, 1999. A petition for a three month extension of time, up to and including January 14, 2000, accompanies this response.

PRIORITY

Please amend the specification by adding the following to the end of the text on page 1:

a1
This application claims priority from U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/135,496, filed February 2, 1998, entitled "Processes for Isolating and Amplifying DNA," and U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/135,495, filed February 2, 1998, entitled "Processes for Isolating and Characterizing DNA."